

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

September 23, 1981

USSR-POLAND: Possible Soviet Economic Pressure

Moscow may be attempting for the first time to link the level of future aid to Poland to Warsaw's willingness to act against Solidarity. [REDACTED]

In a speech yesterday, Polish Politburo member Olszowski alluded to possible Soviet economic pressure, remarking that continued anti-Sovietism might prompt Moscow to reduce its aid by insisting that Soviet-Polish trade be balanced. Soviet Deputy Premier Baybakov yesterday met with Premier Jaruzelski in Warsaw to initiate talks on bilateral trade for 1982, and the Polish news agency indicated Poland had asked the Soviets to permit an \$800 million trade deficit. [REDACTED]

Polish officials last week hinted that unpublished portions of the Soviet letter of 10 September threatened economic reprisals if "anti-Soviet" activity were not suppressed. [REDACTED]

Regardless of the message Moscow is attempting to convey, Warsaw may invoke the danger of economic reprisals in the effort to induce Solidarity to moderate its stance. Such a threat might carry particular weight with those activists in Solidarity who believe that additional destabilization would serve Soviet ends. [REDACTED]

Government and Union Flexibility

Several signs of moderation emerged from both sides yesterday, despite continuing tension. Union leaders were told on Monday that the government will not bring its controversial self-management bill to a vote in the parliament until after the second session of Solidarity's congress. The union, in turn, offered a compromise that, while giving workers the right to hire managers, apparently would allow the government to challenge appointments in the courts. [REDACTED]

Solidarity's leadership, according to several union sources, has decided to avoid any polemic with the regime until after the final session of its congress sets union

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policy. In line with this decision, the national leadership, which met in Gdansk yesterday, did not issue any rejoinders to the various Soviet and regime criticisms over the last week. Such a show of restraint appears to be an important victory for the moderates.

The union, however, is letting local chapters carry the brunt of the propaganda exchange. Solidarity's news service is carrying messages from union members in various factories responding heatedly to the Soviet message and the stream of letters from Soviet workers. [REDACTED]

The government, meanwhile, is responding to Moscow's demand that it move against instigators of anti-Soviet acts. The police yesterday arrested two local Solidarity activists in different parts of the country and charged them with inciting the populace against Poland's alliance with the USSR. The actions probably will provoke an angry response from some union members, but the leadership's reaction may be restrained out of an awareness of the Soviet pressures on the regime.